



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE ANDRES AYALA, JR.
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4027
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: 860-240-8585
TOLL FREE: 800-842-8267
FAX: 860-240-0206
E-MAIL: Andres.Ayala@cga.ct.gov

MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

General Law Public Hearing Testimony
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HB 5858 AN ACT CONCERNING BED BUGS AND
RE-MANUFACTURED MATTRESSES.

Good Morning Chairmen Taborsak and Doyle, Vice-chairs, ranking members and the members of the General Law Committee. I am here to give testimony on HB 5858, "*An Act concerning bed bugs and Re-manufactured Mattresses.*"

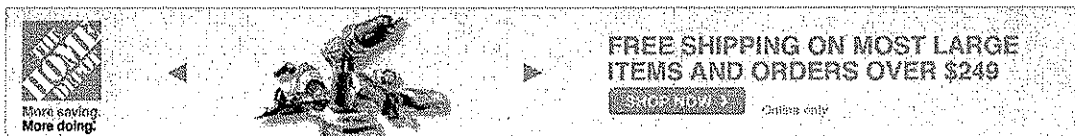
I don't know if you had the opportunity to see a video which I sent to the members of this committee by email. In the link you can see the basis for this bill I have before you today. As you watch the reporter question the owner of the business towards the end of the interview, the owner who is quite flustered says to the reporter if she has any complaints to take it to the City or the State. The reason he says that is because in most cases nothing will be done about it.

In the State of CT, we have some laws which require business owners of re-manufactured mattresses companies to provide clean and sanitary re-manufactured mattresses. I believe we need to put stronger measures in place to ensure that these companies comply with the measures within the law. There needs to be more inspections of the facilities and the mattresses and the penalties should be harsher to prevent any of the practices.

This is important to me because many people who are impoverished do not have the means to purchase brand new mattresses at such a high cost, and as a result they end up having to purchase the re-manufactured mattresses. These customers should be able to buy these mattresses and have full confidence that they are purchasing a mattress which is bed bug free and is as clean as the law says it should be.

Thank you.

Testimony Submitted by:
Rep. Andres Ayala



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What Are Remanufactured Mattresses?

By Angela Brown, eHow Contributor

updated: February 13, 2010

Definition

A remanufactured mattress is a used mattress that has been stuffed with new or recycled material, has been recovered or has received a new or refurbished frame. Hotels and motels often sell their used mattresses to companies that refurbish them for resale.

Benefits

If a high-end mattress has been restuffed with quality foam or other materials and is also recovered, you can save hundreds of dollars on your mattress purchase.

Drawbacks

Remanufactured mattresses may have a history you'd rather not know about and may carry bedbugs, germs and bacteria. In addition, a retailer may claim that a mattress has been recovered or restuffed but in actuality is merely selling you a used mattress.

Sanitation and Safety

Some states require remanufactured mattresses to carry tags identifying them as such and may require manufacturers to sanitize and disinfect them prior to sale. Other states have flammability requirements for remanufactured mattresses. Contact your state Consumer Affairs department to inquire about laws (<http://www.ehow.com/legal/>) in your area.

Protection

If you decide to purchase a remanufactured mattress, you may want to cover it in plastic to avoid coming into contact with any dirt, parasites or bacteria.

References

- Happy Living: "Buying Mattresses Used"
- MSNBC: "Bedbugs Can Live in Your New Mattress"

Resources

- Hotel Surplus Outlet

Photo Credit

bed and lamp image by Nikolai Sorokin from Fotolia.com